



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
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FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montañó

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mr. Frank S. Bacio

Ms. Barbara Bigby
Mr. Vito Cannella
Ms. Rita Hall
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mr. Carl E. Moore

MINUTES OF THE **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING** **AUGUST 20, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Montañó called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chair Montañó led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Chair Eleanor R. Montañó
Frank Bacio
Vito Cannella
John A. Hammargren
Carl E. Moore

Excused Absence

Barbara Bigby
Rita Hall

Others Present

Captain Warren Asmus, Sheriff's Department
Michael Varela, Probation Department
Dorothy Channel, Department of Children and Family Services
Belinda Gibson, Department of Auditor-Controller
Timothy Braden, Internal Services Department
Alan Henry, Community Care Licensing

Staff

George Britton, Commission Services Staff
Mireya Rivera, Commission Services Staff

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Chair Montañó welcomed everyone for attending the meeting and requested that Department Representatives introduce themselves.

Sheriff's Department:

Captain Asmus reported the following.

- The Courts are dealing with budget cuts and the decision is to close Courthouses that do not have any lockups.
- There were minor damages to courthouses due to last month's earthquake.

Probation Department:

Mr. Michael Varela reported on Cosmetology/Barbering Class at Camp Afflerbauch and reported the following to the Commission:

- Records show that, to date 134 minors have participated in the Saturday Barbering Program. Currently there are 15 minors enrolled in the program, and have accumulated a total of 6,524 hours since it started. The hours accumulated by minors can be used towards securing a California Barber's license after completion of a full course from an accredited Cosmetology/Barber College.
- The Probation camp building did not suffer any damages due to last month's earthquake.

Department of Children and Family Services:

Ms. Dorothy Channel reported the following:

- Five Acres Group Home is planning to voluntarily close a site as of September of 2008.
- The reported number of physical abuse allegations was 14.
- The reported number of sexual abuse allegations was 3.
- The reported number of general neglect allegations was 10.
- The reported number of runaways from group homes was 274, which include Probation Group Homes.

Commissioner Moore joined the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

- There have been no group home closures since the July 16, 2008, Sybil Brand Commission meeting.

Department of Auditor-Controller:

Ms. Belinda Gibson gave the following report:

- The Altadena, El Nido, Hathaway and Sycamore Group Home Audits revealed damages to the furniture and walls in the bedroom; lack of cleanliness in bedrooms and common areas; and damages to Baldwin cottage roof and medical building.

The following "Group Home Follow-up Audits" have been completed:

- Hillside's Group Home at the three locations: Altadena, Pasadena and Los Angeles
- Boys Satellite Group Home in Altadena
- Girls Satellite Group Home in Pasadena

Department of Mental Health: No representative was present.

Internal Services Department:

Mr. Timothy Braden reported the following and distributed handouts:

- Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's Statewide Drought Proclamation and Supervisor Knabe's motion directing the Acting Director of the Department of Public Works to take any actions needed in response to the Governor's statewide drought proclamation, including recommendations to ensure that the County is conserving water.
- The County's conservation water policy is a 10% mandated reduction for this fiscal year and additional 10% reduction for next fiscal year.

Community Care Licensing Division:

Mr. Alan P. Henry reported that the Mid-Valley Youth Center Group Home has voluntarily closed on July 8, 2008 and distributed a new strip search policy that has been implemented.

Chair Montañó and the Commissioners thanked the various Department Representatives for their participation and reports.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 6, 2008, MEETING MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Vice Chair Bacio, and unanimously carried, the minutes of August 6, 2008, were approved with no changes.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Montañó reported on two (2) news articles:

- "State Foster Care Is Lacking" Daily Breeze, August 16, 2008, regarding the issue of California foster children being underserved by an overburdened court system.
- "Courts Lag In Foster Care Cases" Los Angeles Times, August 16, 2008, regarding the issue of California's foster children being underserved by an overburdened court system.

Additionally, she reported that:

- She attended the services for Deputy Juan A. Escalante, killed in the line of duty, on August 2, 2008.
- A thank you letter is to be sent to Supervisor Knabe for sponsoring the Sybil Brand Commission Scholarship program.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Bacio reported that the current balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$2,002.83. However, once the scholarship checks are paid, the balance will be \$1,002.83.

STAFF REPORT

Mr. George Britton reported the following:

- The Commission Services Division of the Executive Office will be conducting a Brown Act Workshop, Thursday, September 18, 2008. Commissioners are invited to attend.

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS 2008

Following Discussion, the Commission agreed that the nominees will receive a copy of the pictures taken by the County photographer with the Supervisors; the pictures taken by the commission staff of the nominees receiving the scholarship will be posted on the Sybil Brand Commission website; an article about the Sybil Brand Commission scholarship will be prepared for the County Digest.

CORRESPONDENCE/AUDIT REPORT

The following letters from the Honorable Sheriff Leroy Baca were received and filed:

- A letter of thanks to the Commission regarding its comments on Sergeant David Haney for his assistance during an inspection at the Century Regional Detention Facility.
- A letter of thanks to the Commission regarding its comments on Commander Robert Olmsted for the improvements made to the Men's Central Jail.

FACILITY/GROUP HOME INSPECTION REPORTS FROM AUGUST 6, 2008 TO AUGUST 19, 2008

Rosemary Children's services (Green House) – 51, #3 – Commissioner Bigby
The facility was visited on August 7, 2008, and found to be in good condition.

Aviva Center, Hamburger Home – 3, #5 – Commissioners Bacio and Moore (Verbal)
The facility was visited on August 7, 2008, and found to be in good condition.

Rosemary Children's services (Bonnie House) – 51, #4 – Commissioner Bigby

The facility was visited on August 11, 2008, and found to be in good condition.

Heritage Group Homes #4 – 27, #3 – Commissioner Hammargren

The facility was visited on August 11, 2008, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Areas of Concern: Evacuation plan and daily activity schedule are not posted; Needs and Service Plan is not updated; the bedroom door knob is missing; dryer lint trap is not cleaned.

Penny Lane (Main Facility) – 48, #3 – Commissioner Montaño

The facility was visited on August 11, 2008, and found to be in excellent condition.

Penny Lane #8 – 47, #3 – Commissioner Montaño

The facility was visited on August 11, 2008, and found to be in excellent condition.

Penny Lane #4 – 47, #2 – Commissioner Montaño

The facility was visited on August 11, 2008, and found to be in excellent condition.

Penny Lane #5 – 47, #1 – Commissioner Montaño

The facility was visited on August 11, 2008, and found to be in excellent condition.

Heritage Group Home #1 – 27, #5 – Commissioners Bigby and Hammargren

The facility was visited on August 13, 2008, and found to be a nice home.

Area of Concern: Needs and Service Plan needs to be updated.

Los Angeles County General Hospital Jail Ward – Commissioners Bacio, Hall and Moore

The facility was visited on August 13, 2008, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Area of Concern: Turn out gear is one size fits all.

Penny Lane #2 – 48, #1 – Commissioner Montaño

The facility was visited on August 13, 2008, and found to be in excellent condition.

Penny Lane #1 – 48, #2 – Commissioner Montaño

The facility was visited on August 13, 2008, and found to be in excellent condition.

Human Services Network (Parthenia) – 30, #5 – Commissioner Montaño

The facility was visited on August 13, 2008, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Area of Concern: Needs and Service Plan needs to be updated.

Children's Are Our Future (Kezios) – 7, #4 – Commissioner Montaño

The facility was visited on August 18, 2008, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Vista Del Mar (Cp Emancipation Home) – 61, #4 – Commissioner Montaño

The facility was visited on August 18, 2008, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Area of Concern: Emergency Plan not posted.

San Gabriel Children's Center (Homerest) – 52, #5 – Commissioner Hammargren

The facility was visited on August 18, 2008, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Areas of Concern: Clean and replace filter on the air conditioner; low on non-perishable food supply; first aid kit needs to be replaced.

Boys Republic of Monrovia – Commissioner Bacio

The facility was visited on August 19, 2008, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Trinity Children Family Services (El Monte) – 58, #3 – Commissioner Hammargren

The facility was visited on August 19, 2008, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Pioneer Boy's Ranch #5 – 49, #4 – Commissioner Montaña

The facility was visited on August 19, 2008, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Pioneer Boy's Ranch #2 – 49, #5 – Commissioner Montaña

The facility was visited on August 19, 2008, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Commission unanimously commended the staff for coordinating the Sybil Brand Commission scholarships.

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)

Commissioner Moore proposed, for the next Business meeting discussing the possibility of having joint inspections of Group Homes by Community Care Licensing, Department of Children and Family Services, and Probation Department.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Montaña adjourned the meeting at 11:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

George Britton
Commission Services Division